

1: Burrows--85

836

(1947-48)

Woleaians

Ifalik

"Pre-marital sexual relationships, permitted by custom on Ifalik as in many Pacific islands, are not carried on by groups, as in parts of Polynesia and Melanesia, but by isolated couples, who meet secretly to avoid gossip."

2: Damm et al. --75-76
116, 582, 836

(1909) 1938

Woleaians
Ifaluk

Marriage is forbidden (etab) with all the women, who live in the same house with a man, that is with his sisters, etc. These restrictions apply to two generations, but not to the third; [76] accordingly, the grandchildren of brothers and sisters are permitted to wed. In olden days, when the population was smaller, father and cousin were allowed to marry. There is no objection to free love between unmarried people, and boys and girls.

2: Damm et al. --189 [6]

116, 836, 864

(1909) 1938

Wolealans

Faraulep

As a rule, there is no sexual intercourse before the marriage, but this is not always true. The older people instruct the younger ones systematically about it (ria - vagina, ounum - clitoris).

4: Krämer--110
116, 582, 836

(1909) 1937

Woleaians
Lamotrek

Girls marry as young as ten years and up, whereas the men wait until they are grown up. The parents simply express their consent or disapproval when the question of marriage is put to them without any further ado. Close relatives do not marry. Before marriage, there is complete freedom. Faithfulness in marriage is a rare occurrence. Marriages between close relatives are possible if this relationship is on the side of the man, in the sense of the totemistic matrilineal right. It has been mentioned that marriages may not take place between members of one gailang, one clan; in the same way it is possible within the first clan, but only between members belonging to different ones of the three branches.... That means that as close relatives as cousins may marry, if they do not derive their relationship through two sisters, but rather from a brother or sister, or best from two brothers.

6: Senfft--56
116, 836, 585

(no date) 1905

Woleaians
Woleai
Lamotrek

The man does not care whether his bride is a virgin or not. The natives have sexual intercourse as soon as they are physically mature; this occurs at an early age.

11: Born--188-189

116, 841, 836

(1903) 1904

Wolealans

Woleal

During their menstrual period, pungelog, the women and girls stay in a small house for menstruating women. The girls wear a bunch of light green leaves inserted in their grass skirts at that time. They have strict dietary rules; they may not eat anything prepared or even touched by a man.

It is against the custom to have sexual intercourse with a girl who has not yet begun to menstruate. This, however, is frequently disregarded, especially by older people, in spite of the belief that it may hurt the girl's health.

The Jap custom of isolating a girl for three months after her first menstrual period and blackening her teeth does not prevail here. Public opinion disapproves of sexual intercourse before marriage, while this is allowed on Jap. A girl is always accompanied by a group of children of both sexes, who are, as it were, the guardians of her chastity. It is considered very [189] improper for a girl to go into the bushes by herself. In spite of that, many girls follow their own inclinations at night. There are, however, a large number of 15 and 16 year old girls who remain virgins until their marriage.

28: Spiro--147 [8]

116, 836

(1947-48) 1949

Woleaians

Ifalik

"Sweethearts do not meet until after dark, when the others are already asleep."